

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously added): An isolated nucleic acid molecule wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO: 95 or the complement thereof.

Claim 30 (previously added): An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 96.

Claim 31 (previously added): A DNA vector containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30.

Claim 32 (previously added): An expression vector containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30, operatively associated with a regulatory sequence containing transcriptional and translational regulatory elements that control expression of the nucleic acid in a host cell.

Claim 33 (previously added): A genetically-engineered host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30.

Claim 34 (previously added): A genetically-engineered host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30, operatively associated with a regulatory sequence containing transcriptional and translational regulatory elements that control expression of the nucleic acid in a host cell.

Claim 35 (previously added): A genetically-engineered plant containing the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A plant genetically-engineered to overexpress a SCARECROW protein or polypeptide, said protein or polypeptide being encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30, wherein cell division in the plant is increased, resulting in a genetically-engineered plant that has thicker roots and/or is straighter stems than a non-genetically engineered plant.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A plant genetically-engineered to overexpress a SCARECROW protein or polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 96, so that cell division is increased in roots, resulting in a genetically-engineered plant that has thicker roots than a non-genetically engineered plant.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A plant genetically-engineered to overexpress a SCARECROW protein or polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 96, wherein the plant is straighter ~~plant's stem or hypocotyl exhibits stronger directional growth away from a gravity vector~~ than a non-genetically engineered plant plants.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The plant of claim 38, wherein said plant that is less susceptible to lodging than a non-genetically engineered plant.

Claim 40 (previously added) A transgenic plant containing a transgene comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30.

Claim 41 (previously added): The transgenic plant of claim 40 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively associated with a regulatory sequence containing transcriptional and translational regulatory elements that control expression of the nucleic acid in a transgenic plant cell.

Claims 42-43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously added): A method for expressing a nucleic acid that encodes a SCARECROW protein or polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 96 in a host cell, comprising:

- (a) culturing the genetically-engineered host cell of claim 33 or 34; and
- (b) inducing the transcriptional and translational regulatory elements that control expression of the nucleic acid.

Claim 45 (previously added): A method for producing a transgenic plant, comprising transforming a plant cell with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 29 or 30 operatively associated with a regulatory sequence containing transcriptional and translational regulatory elements that control expression of the nucleic acid in the plant cell.

Claim 46 (canceled)